Husk-beating Industry.

388. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Will the Government be pleased to state how they have noted the man-killing features of the husk-beating industry prevailing in Cranganur, Kuzhupilli and other places of the State and whether they intend to experiment machinery with a view to minimise the horrors of the industry?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Government have not realised that the husk-beating industry is man-killing. The centralisation of the husk-beating industry by the introduction of machinery will adversely affect thousands of labourers—who are now earning their livelihood by this work. An attempt made by Government to introduce machinery and to localise the industry at Cherai some time ago has failed. It seems therefore advisable to leave this indegenous industry as it is.

Publication—Madras Mail—Administrative Council—Cochin.

389. **Mr. Paul Mampilli.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any truth in the publication in the Madras Mail to the effect that Cochin will soon have an Administrative Council?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—No.

General Economic Depression and Retrenchment.

390. **Mr. P. Krishna Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) have the Government brought into force any measure to reduce the cost of administration;

(2) if they have not, have they intention to effect retrenchment in the cost of administration;

(3) if they have, will they be pleased to state the heads under which they propose to effect the same;

(4) is the Government aware that orders have been passed by neighbouring Government including Mysore effecting reductions in the pay and travelling allowance of Government Officers and also by reducing the strength of the staff in offices where reductions could be had without imparing quantity and quality of work?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—(1), (2) & (3). Some reduction in the rates of travelling allowance has been effected. There is no other proposal at present.

(4) Yes.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Has the Government any objection to consider the proposals for reduction in the above lines?

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